



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Nov 21, 2005

CHINA

China Confirms Second Avian Influenza Death

On 23 November China reported its second confirmed human death from avian influenza, while tests showed a teacher who fell ill elsewhere in the country does not have the H5N1 virus. The latest fatality, a 35-year-old farmer, died on 22 November after developing a fever and pneumonia-like symptoms following contact with sick and dead poultry. The woman tested positive for the H5N1 virus. The woman lived in Xiuning County in the eastern province of Anhui. China's first confirmed avian influenza death was also a woman from Anhui. The country's only other confirmed avian influenza case was a 9-year-old boy from the central province of Hunan, who fell ill but recovered. His 12-year-old sister was recorded as a suspected case, and later died. However, her body was cremated before tests could confirm whether she had the virus.

Source:

• CBS News, Nov 23, 2005, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/11/23/health/main1071337.shtml>

INDIA

Dengue Kills Six People So Far in Gujarat, India

Six people have died in the past three weeks from Dengue in Gujarat, India. There have been a record 70 cases in hospitals. In all, the epidemic has killed 11 people this year. Also of great concern to health officials is that in addition to the 70 dengue cases, this month alone has seen 243 cases of falciparum, the most dangerous type of malaria. Civic officials discovered as many as 135,000 breeding grounds of mosquitoes near homes, offices, shops and industrial complexes.

Source:

• Khaleej Times, Nov 25, 2005,

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/November/subcontinent_November861.xml§ion=subcontinent&col

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COEDMHA's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) team surveys, compiles and disseminates news reports from various publicly available newswires, websites, and health information networks including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and ProMed. Some information is presented in its original version. The information contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of the COEDMHA.

INDONESIA

Indonesia Prepares for Third Polio Immunization Campaign

Indonesia is preparing for its third nationwide polio immunization campaign next week in order to stop the disease spreading in Indonesia. The 30 November program would target 24 million children across the archipelago, involving one million vaccinators at 250,000 medical posts. There have been 295 polio cases in Indonesia since May, when the disease re-emerged here after being eradicated a decade ago. In the two earlier rounds, Indonesia immunized 97.4 percent of its targeted 24 million children. Polio is a water-borne disease that attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis in hours. Children are most at risk. Despite the success of the two past immunization rounds, health officials are on guard with the wet season under way. The disease was first detected in villages in West Java province in May and has spread to 10 provinces.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Nov 25, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK76041.htm>

Indonesian Health Officials Await WHO Test on Suspected Avian Influenza Victim

Health authorities are waiting for confirmation from a Hong Kong laboratory after local tests showed that another local man died of Avian influenza. The 35-year-old man died at a private hospital in Jakarta. The WHO has confirmed seven human fatalities in this country from the H5N1 strain since July. There are currently 17 patients thought to be infected by the virus still being treated at hospitals. Outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu have killed 67 people in Asia since 2003.

Source:

· The Jakarta Post, Nov 22, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/Archives/ArchivesDet2.asp?FileID=20051122.A08>

Malaria Outbreak in Indonesia

Nine people have died and 266 others have been treated at local hospitals and community health centers in the Indonesian town of East Lombok since a malaria outbreak was first detected in the regency at the end of October 2005. The outbreak affected 3 subdistricts in the regency in the eastern province of West Nusa Tenggara. To prevent more fatalities, the local government has alerted health centers to prepare more medicine and import doctors and nurses. Last year, malaria also affected West Lombok, but fewer people were infected with the virus. The increase is due to poor sanitation in the area, which created areas for malaria larvae to breed. Both *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* malaria are found on Lombok, and chloroquine resistance has been reported. Travelers should be advised to use malaria prophylaxis when visiting Lombok.

Source:

· Chinaview.cn, Nov 21, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-11/19/content_3803440.htm

· Promed Mail, Nov 21, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2007313952631268761::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_

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PHILIPPINES

Two Strains of Dengue Found in Pangasinan, Philippines

A physician has confirmed that there are two strains of dengue found in Pangasinan patients based on blood cultures analyzed so far. The strains were a non-violent type found mostly among patients from western Pangasinan and the violent type that appeared to afflict those from western Pangasinan. The violent type of dengue was what attacked two patients who have died, one of them from western Pangasinan. These were the first casualties from dengue. Dengue cases are expected to rise some more this September because the rainy season is not yet over.

Source:

· Sunstar, Nov 26, 2005, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/pan/2005/11/26/news/2.strains.of.dengue.discovered.in.pangasinan.html>

VIETNAM

Avian Influenza Affects Teenager in Vietnam

The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has confirmed another case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza. A 15-year-old boy from Hai Phong Province developed symptoms on 14 November and was hospitalized on 16 November. He has been discharged from hospital and is recovering. Since mid-December 2004, Viet Nam has reported 66 cases, of which 22 have died.

Source:

· WHO Website, Nov 25, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_11_25/en/index.html

Other World News

WORLD

40 Million People Currently Have the AIDS Virus

The global HIV epidemic continues to expand, with more than 40 million people now estimated to have the AIDS virus. An estimated 3.1 million people died from the virus last year and another 4.9 million people became infected, according to a U.N. update. Last year the total number of people living with the virus was estimated at 39.4 million. Growing epidemics are under way in Eastern Europe and in Central and East Asia. Five years ago, one in 10 new infections were in Asia. Today the number is one in four or five. China, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam are facing significant increases. There are also alarming signs that Pakistan and Indonesia could be on the verge of serious epidemics. Intravenous drug use and commercial sex are fueling the epidemic in Asia.

Source:

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- CNN News, Nov 21, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/11/21/un.aids.ap/index.html>
- The Herald Tribune, Nov 21, 2005, http://www.iht.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2005/11/21/news/aids.php

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